



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the Wabash River as a unique heritage resource.

Whereas, From the 17th through the 19th century, the Wabash River was part of an important trade route connecting Canada and the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and allowing Hoosiers to ship their goods as far as New Orleans;

Whereas, The early economic life of Terre Haute, founded in 1816, was dependent on the river and the industry that thrived on its banks:

Whereas, The decline of river commerce in the 20th century resulted in declining utilization of the Wabash River as a resource for trade;

Whereas, The Wabash River remains an exceptional natural resource with enormous potential for recreational, educational, and cultural purposes, including serving as the backdrop for Fairbanks Park and a scenic destination on the Historic National Road, a National Scenic Byway with an expanse covering six states;

Whereas, The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department, Vigo County Government, the City of Terre Haute, the Town of West Terre Haute, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, the Wabash Valley Community Foundation, Indiana State University,



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Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Sisters of Providence, the Vigo County School Corporation, the West Vigo Levy Association, Ms. Susie Dewey, Duke Energy, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the West Central Indiana Economic Development District, with the assistance of the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund, have partnered to create the newly established Wabash River National Road Wetland Reservation;

Whereas, The quality of life of people of Terre Haute/Vigo County and west-central Indiana would be greatly enhanced by continued revitalization of the riverfront corridor; and

Whereas, Revitalization of the riverfront corridor will preserve and make available over 5,000 acres of natural resources for recreation, education, and cultural use, contributing to the health and economic well-being of the citizens of Indiana: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes the Wabash River as a unique heritage resource and encourages the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Wabash Riverfront Development and Beautification, Inc., and the citizens of west-central Indiana to revitalize the riverfront and restore the adjacent wetlands in order to ensure access to the river's resources for generations of Hoosiers.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Wabash Riverfront Development and Beautification, Inc.



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